



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Steve Beshear, Governor

Leonard K. Peters, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor proclaims April as Earth Month in Kentucky ***Public, state employees invited to April 9 event***

Frankfort, Ky. (March 26, 2015) – Governor Steve Beshear has proclaimed April as “Earth Month in Kentucky.” Each year, Kentucky celebrates Earth Day, which is April 22, to increase awareness of the importance of conservation, stewardship and protection of our natural environment.

Kentucky First Lady Jane Beshear, the Energy and Environment Cabinet and the Kentucky Environmental Education Council are joining together to host the 2015 Earth Day Celebration Thursday, April 9, from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the Brown-Forman Room and Cralle-Day Garden at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in downtown Frankfort. A number of state and local agencies will have booths to educate state employees and the public about how to become better environmental stewards.

The First Lady will kick off the event with remarks beginning at 10:30 a.m. The celebration also includes recognition of Kentucky’s first university-level Green Ribbon School and the newest K-12 Green and Healthy Schools.

“Across the Commonwealth, student teams are greening school campuses and making a commitment to improved health and well-being of students and staff by promoting healthy eating choices, improved levels of physical activity and time outdoors, energy conservation and much more,” said Elizabeth Schmitz, executive director of the Kentucky Environmental Education Council. “This translates to improved engagement and productivity in schools. The students and teachers to be recognized by First Lady Jane Beshear have provided a

tremendous service to their schools, communities, and to the Commonwealth, and they deserve to be recognized for their efforts.”

Roberta Burnes, environmental education specialist with the Division for Air Quality, said she loves working what’s become an annual event.

“The Earth Day event offers the opportunity to connect state employees and local citizens with all the good things we are doing to foster a sustainable Commonwealth. I love working it – people are always in a good mood, wanting to know how they can take that next step to save energy, protect our air and water, and live more lightly on the earth.

“I also love seeing the other exhibitors and learning about everything from beekeeping to gardening to Kentucky’s natural heritage. It’s a great mix of exhibitors and information with something for everyone,” she added.

Here are a few exhibitor highlights:

- The Frankfort Sewer Department (FSD) will bring a full-scale rain barrel display and will offer demonstrations on how easy rain barrels are to set up and install. In addition, FSD will have a small table with a water treatment model that appeals to ages from 2 to 102. “Water Treatment – The Good, The Bad and The Ugly,” is a demonstration that covers the concepts of water treatment for both drinking water and wastewater, as well as what happens when these infrastructures do not perform well, are constructed incorrectly or become inundated due to natural weather-related phenomena and/or population growth.
- The Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center (KPPC) booth will feature handout publications that highlight the environmental and pollution prevention technical services available to Kentucky businesses and industries. Handouts providing information for residential sustainability activities will also be available at the booth. KPPC staff will be on hand to answer questions and talk about the current sustainability initiatives and projects of the center. Visitors can sign up at the booth to receive KPPC’s monthly electronic newsletter.
- The Kentucky Division of Forestry will showcase the themes of forestry and soil and give away tree seedlings.
- The Salato Wildlife Education Center volunteers will bring mammal furs, turtle shells, snake sheds, snake skulls and live snakes.
- Kentucky State University will be doing a hands-on watershed demonstration on what a watershed is and how watersheds can become polluted with point source and non-point source pollution.
- The Capital City Beekeepers will provide an observation hive that shows bees at work on the honeycomb in an enclosed environment. Observers will not come into contact with the bees.
- Walk/Bike Frankfort will share information on bicycle safety.

Other state and local agencies participating are:

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission
The Governor's Garden/Governor's Office of Ag Policy
Division of Water
Division of Compliance Assistance
Department of Parks
Division of Waste Management
State Office Building's Green Team
Frankfort Public Works Department
Kentucky School Boards Association's School Energy Managers Program
Division for Air Quality
Kentucky-National Energy Education Development Project
Kentucky Environmental Education Council
Woods and Waters Land Trust
Franklin County Solid Waste Department
Kentucky Association for Environmental Education
Bluegrass Greensource

State employees can make a "green" choice by using Frankfort Transit's trolley service to and from the event. The trolley or trolley bus will make stops at the Capitol and Capitol Annex, Fair Oaks, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and the Capital City Complex on Versailles Road.

Building	Pick-up Times and Locations	Transportation
Fair Oaks Building	9:55 a.m. – 10 a.m. at the main entrance closest to Southern States	Trolley
Capital City Complex	10:10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. at the main entrance of both buildings	Trolley
Cabinet for Health and Family Services	9:50 a.m. – 9:55 a.m. at the main entrance in the rear of the CHFS building	Trolley Bus
Capitol Building and Capitol Annex	10 a.m. – 10:05 a.m. in front of the Annex at the cross walk (existing trolley sign)	Trolley Bus

The trolley bus will be parked in the drop-off area of the history center on Ann Street for return trips. The trolley bus will make return trips until 1:30 p.m. For trolley information, call 875-8665. For information on the event, call Ricki Gardenhire at 502-564-5525 or email Ricki.gardenhire@ky.gov.

